

The Broad Ax

HEW TO THE LINE; LET THE CHIPS FALL WHERE THEY MAY

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The Colored Soldiers at Camp Grant and at the Other Training Camps Throughout the Country Are Making Rapid Strides in Acquiring the Art of Mastering All the Military Tactics. Many of Them Are Fast Learning for the First Time How to Read and Write and They Are Giving Up the Habit of Using Vile, Vicious and Profane Language. An Interesting Article

By HENRY C. NEWELL.

Many thousands of Colored men who are in the draft are today finding greater opportunities than they have ever known before. The fact that they are in the army means now, if it never before meant, a broader education, a better physical body, a clearer brain and a brighter future. As one goes about from one big cantonment to another he cannot help observing that the Colored race is figuring in this great opportunity, that there is a stirring of ambition that is bound to result in great good.

Men of the race who never had held a pen or pencil between their fingers in all their lives are now learning their A B Cs with the same delight that children do. The presence of hundreds of men in the Y. M. C. A. huts doing the same thing spurs them on. When they have really learned to write so that they can get word back to the friends they have left behind, then they are in the way of becoming efficient soldiers.

It may seem strange to you, but actually some of these men could not even understand orders when they first came to camp. For one thing, they didn't know their right from their left foot; and lots of them could not tell what the sergeant meant when he said, "Right about face." They didn't know which way to turn.

Of course, that was to be expected, for there are some well educated people I know who wouldn't have executed orders any better than these fellows in the Colored regiments. But it did not last a great while. The boys learned—they learned mighty rapidly, too.

At Camp Grant, near Rockford, Ill., there is a particularly fine piece of work going on for the Colored troops. It is under the supervision of the Army Y. M. C. A., the Colored branch of which employs four able secretaries to study and solve the physical, intellectual, social and religious problems and needs of the men encamped there.

Early in the encampment only a few letters were written in and mailed from the Y. M. C. A. hut for Colored soldiers. But after a campaign that had this slogan, "Every Man Must Write His Name," the sale of postage stamps increased greatly—simply because men who had never been able to write even their names learned to do so and also began to write letters to friends and relatives.

The story of Bill Bailey is rather typical. Bill had been a coal heaver and education never had appealed to him; he couldn't use it in his business. He could neither read nor write, and the little figuring he found necessary could be done on his fingers.

But as soon as he got into camp, away from his Chicago friends, he grew homesome and even a bit homesick for them. Just then the Y. M. C. A. campaign came on and Bill Bailey discovered that writing was the thing that would immediately connect him with his friends again. So he enrolled in a class in writing and after a week or more of harder labor than he had ever done in his life, he was able to scrawl his name.

The achievement whetted his appetite. He wanted to learn rapidly now, so that he might soon write a letter to his folks in Chicago—a thing he had never been able to do. But several weeks later, Bill actually wrote his first letter—wrote it and then surveyed it with the proud eye of an artist. It looked awfully good to him—and it was good, too.

But all this was only the beginning of Bill Bailey's adventure in education. Very shortly he was asking if he could not learn to do "sums." A class in mathematics was organized by the Y. M. C. A. secretaries and Bill and a

number of his fellow soldiers were enrolled. They are now being instructed in the subject and when they have mastered it they will take up French, geography and other studies. Thus Bill Bailey is better able to entertain himself and use his leisure hours to some good purpose than he would have been without the Y. M. C. A. campaign for every man to write his name.

He is also having a chance to play games and build up muscles that he never used before. The outdoor games are teaching him to think and act quickly; boxing he enjoys most of all, perhaps; it is boxing that trains him for trench fighting, bayoneting and grenade throwing, all of which the good soldier now knows.

In all of the cantonments the Y. M. C. A. religious program for the Colored troops has had a beneficial effect. Many men have been converted and many others have given up filthy and expensive habits. Profanity has decreased to noticeable extent where campaigns have been made to show the troopers how useless it is.

The cleaner atmosphere in the camps has made it possible to entertain women friends and relatives of the soldiers in the Y. M. C. A. huts and these social parties are greatly enjoyed by the men who are away from their own families and friends. In the Y. M. C. A. buildings erected for the special use of the Colored troops, there is ample space for motion pictures and theatrical entertainments, as well as for letter writing and social games. This is one place in camp which the men really enjoy, for it makes them feel thoroughly "at home."

NATIONAL NEWS NOTES.

Brief Bits of News and Comments on Men and Measures.

Editor Chase of the Washington "Bee" Offers Advice.

Washington, D. C.—The Washington Bee, of which William Calvin Chase is the well-known and famous editor, offers this advice to members of his race: The Colored race is now passing through a great crisis. The Bee counsels all of the wisdom of keeping a still tongue and a wise head. Let us look to the morrow, remembering that He who notes the sparrow's fall will not suffer us to be lost. This week's press reports brought us news that almost bears down strongest hearts, but the future is rosy, in spite of the past. Just at this time let us content ourselves with burying the thirteen troopers—not praise them. God is the final judge and time works wonders. Let us keep a still tongue and a wise head.

New York Newspaper Says North Will Not Always Allow Negroes to Be Counted for Representation Purposes While Denying Them Votes at the Polls.

New York, N. Y.—The New York Times, said by many people to be the most influential newspaper in America, in commenting upon the recent vote in Congress upon the Prohibition issue says: It is deplorable that a controversy sure to be bitter in all states not ineffectually dry, should be authorized by Congress when the united thought and energy of the country should be concentrated on the supreme duty, as yet all too lightly realized, of victory in the war. It is curious that Federal prohibition should be proposed when half the states have prohibition by their own acts, when every strengthening by Congress of the rigidities of state prohibition is sustained by the Supreme Court, when either the waiving or the

assertion of the Federal power over interstate commerce is used to uphold and bulwark state prohibition, when the President himself has the power of prohibition and regulation during the war.

Speaking with perfect frankness, the main interest of the southern prohibitionist is on account of the Negroes. Why does the South want to force prohibition upon the whites of the North? Are state's rights dead as a doornail in their ancient home? Even if they are, is it not wise to look to the future? The Republicans may come into power some day. Is it likely that they will put up permanently with the nullification of constitutional amendments born of the war, with the full representation in the House of a South where, as a rule, Negroes cannot vote? Will the South be allowed to count its black population for representation purposes, not to let them be counted at the polls?

MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT POINTS GROWTH OF CITY.

12th Street and Boulevard Link Work Offered as Chief Events.

By William Hale Thompson. (Mayor of Chicago.)

Justice is the foundation of good will. Without justice there will not be happiness, tranquillity, nor success. Justice means a fair and square deal to all. Therefore with this word in mind Chicago has striven forward through another year.

So rapid has been the growth of Chicago commercially, financially, morally, intellectually, and physically that when her people pause to look back upon the last year they may well be amazed to behold the many changes.

Through the Twelfth street widening, which has been completed to Canal street, the great West Side is given a magnificent avenue of approach to the lake front.

The Boulevard Link.

Just as this great work was completed the last hindrance to the widening and beautifying of Michigan avenue was removed by a favorable court decision. Work on the improvement of Canal street and the new Union station is progressing steadily and plans for the widening of Ogden avenue are now formulated.

Not only has Chicago been beautified and made commercially greater, but laws have been enforced impartially so that public morals and well being have been safeguarded.

Health is a most important factor in the progress of a municipality, and Chicago today is the healthiest city in America.

Compliments Police.

Strenuous efforts have been made for the safety and protection of our citizens and their property. Consequently, an excellent record has been made in the prevention and detection of crime, and the recovery of property stolen.

The public services interests of the people have been ably looked after.

Realizing fully the great trust bestowed upon me, I shall enter upon the new year determined to continue to enforce the laws given me to enforce, and to deal with each and every citizen fairly and squarely. With this watchword before us, let us push on, helping one another by true co-operation and team work to make Chicago the largest, best and greatest city in the world.

It must be admitted by all fair-minded men, namely, that Mayor Thompson continues to put his best foot forward in an effort to place Chicago on the map as she has never been placed before and to make it in every way the greatest city in the wide world. —Editor.



MR. ISRAEL COWEN

High class lawyer, strong supporter of President Woodrow Wilson and his war policies, warm friend of the editor of this paper, who highly commends the Christmas issue or the twenty-second anniversary edition of The Broad Ax.

A TWO-MINUTE TALK ON THRIFT OR HELP YOUR GOVERNMENT, HELP YOURSELF AND HELP WIN THE WAR.

The government of the United States in issuing War Savings Stamps and Thrift Stamps, is extending to all the people an opportunity to help win the war. You did not have to be rich enough to purchase a Liberty Bond to aid. You may lend the government as little as 25 cents at a time, and still feel that every time you buy a little thrift stamp you are doing something for your country.

In extending this opportunity to all the people—to the women who manage the household affairs, to the children, to the wage earners of all classes—the government has been more liberal than it has to the large investors, who, up to now, have advanced billions of dollars, and who will be called upon, in the future, to advance billions more.

These "Baby Bonds," which, like Liberty Bonds, have behind them as security the whole resources of the United States, earn an equivalent to interest at the rate of 4 per cent, compounded every three months.

You need not be afraid to invest every available dollar you have in War Savings Stamps for the United States has arranged so that you may get it back on a few days' notice with interest should necessity arise.

The "Baby Bond" is the golden opportunity for the children. How often have your small sons and daughters asked you what they can do to help win the war? How often have they longed to emulate the deeds of the soldiers fighting at the front, or the equally brave nurses who care for the wounded?

Well, now is their opportunity. When a child goes to a postoffice and buys a thrift stamp he may be providing the means to save an American soldier's life. When he goes without candy, or gum, or toys, he is serving his country just as definitely as the man who should a rifle. He not only is helping to

provide for the armies in the field by lending the money, but he is helping to release, for government purposes, labor now engaged in the manufacture of entirely useless things.

Let 1918 go down in history as the War Thrift year. When you start to purchase something consider carefully if you cannot do without it. If you find you can, put the money saved into War Saving Stamps. The United States expects to raise \$20 from every man, woman and child in the United States. Let's see how soon each of you can get your \$20 worth. But don't stop. Get twice or three times or four times your allotment if you can, because there are some, so oppressed by poverty, or so apathetic, that they will be unable to or will neglect to help.

And don't forget that while you are helping your government you are helping yourselves. You will find saving, in this way, easier than any other way you have tried. If the "rainy day" ever comes, you will rise and call your government blessed for having provided you with this golden opportunity to save.

Ex-Governor Charles S. Deneen, as principal speaker at the emancipation Celebration at the South Park M. E. Church, New Year's evening, emphasized the importance and the need for an organization of the better class of Colored people in order that they may be able to demand proper consideration of their social and political rights. He advised that the old time professional politician, who seek to carry their ends by whatever means, be it foul or good, be eliminated.

Miss Marnie Huey, of 4032 Indiana avenue, entertained a few friends with a five-course dinner New Year's day. After dinner they had music and dancing. Some of the guests present were Miss Harrison, Mrs. Lula Douglas, Mrs. Cora Kinley, Mrs. George Brown, Miss Georgia Stuart, Mr. and Mrs. Davis, Mr. Harry Franklin.

THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR 1917.

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, December 31, 1917.

Julius F. Taylor:

Dear Sir—I send you the following relative to lynchings for the year. I find from the records kept by the Division of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work in charge, that there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were Negroes and 2 were whites. Thirty-seven were males and one was female. Twelve or a little less than one-third of those put to death were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the Negroes were: attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting woman, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

Very truly yours,
R. R. MOTON,
Principal.

Thomas Cole, the main boss of the C. C. Hotel, 3449 S. State street, had the honor of being the last person in 1917 to dig up some money for the writer.